

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Maria Castellanos et al.
Serial No.: 09/944,919

Filed: August 31, 2001
Docket No.: 10007912-1

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MINING A DOCUMENT CONTAINING DIRTY TEXT

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed September 28, 2004. Claims 31-35 have been allowed. Claims 1-6, 9-12, 15-16, 19-26 and 39-30 were rejected. Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28 have been objected to. With this Response, claims 1, 7, 9-12, 17, 19, 20, 21, 27, 29 and 30 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-12, 15, 17-22, 25 and 27-35 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-2, 5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103834 (Thompson). Claims 3-4, 6, 11-12, 15-16, 19-20, 21-26 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson.

Thompson recites a method and apparatus for analyzing documents in electronic form. The method includes using a knowledge bank formed of a plurality of lexicons. The analysis is conducted by defining for each of the lexicons an associated subject header and then defining a list of word terms having a logical relationship with the subject header.

Amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are believed to be patentable over Thompson. As conceded by the Examiner, Thompson fails to disclose **performing a data mining operation on the clean document to provide a summary of the content, including removing an instance of computer code from the document and removing a table from the document**. Further, Thompson fails to disclose, teach or suggest **removing an instance of computer code from a document and removing a table from the document, in combination with scoring and ranking each sentence in the document**. The Examiner further stated that scoring and ranking sentences in combination with removing tables and computer code is neither anticipated nor suggested by the prior art of record. See Office Action paragraph 6. Accordingly, Applicants believe dependent claims 1, 11 and 17, and the claims depending therefrom, to be allowable over Thompson.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-8, 17-18 and 27-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 7, 17 and 27 into independent form. Dependent claims 8, 18 and 28 depend directly upon corresponding amended independent claims 7, 17 and 27. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 7-8, 17-18 and 27-28 to be allowable over the art of record.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 2, 5, 7-12, 15, 17-22, 25 and 27-35 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 7-12, 15, 17-22, 25 and 27-35 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Howard Boyle at Telephone No. (281) 518-9645, Facsimile No. (281) 514-8332 or Steven E. Dicke at Telephone No. (612) 573-2002, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 20, 2004
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 20 day of December, 2004.

By Steven E. Dicke
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